

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

- 1.4 (canceled).
5. (previously presented): A radially self-expanding stent for implantation in a body passage comprises first and second sets of mutually counter-rotating metallic filaments which are braided together and define a tubular stent body having two ends which is mechanically biased towards a first radially expanded configuration in which it is unconstrained by externally applied forces and can be retained in a second radially compressed configuration, and in which some or all of the filament ends at the ends of the body are fixed together in pairs each consisting of counter-rotating filaments by placing the filaments over one another and placing them adjacent to and substantially parallel to one another and further comprising a join at each end fixing to retain the ends of the filaments in contact with one another, wherein some but not all of the filament ends are welded.
6. (original): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the join generally has a diameter of at least 1.2 times that of the diameter of the filament.
7. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is no more than 3 times the diameter of the filament.
8. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein at least some of the joins provide a shoulder in a rearward axial direction.

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Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

9-11. (canceled).

12. (previously presented): A stent according to claim 5, wherein the diameter of the join is less than 2.5 times the diameter of the filament.

13. (canceled).